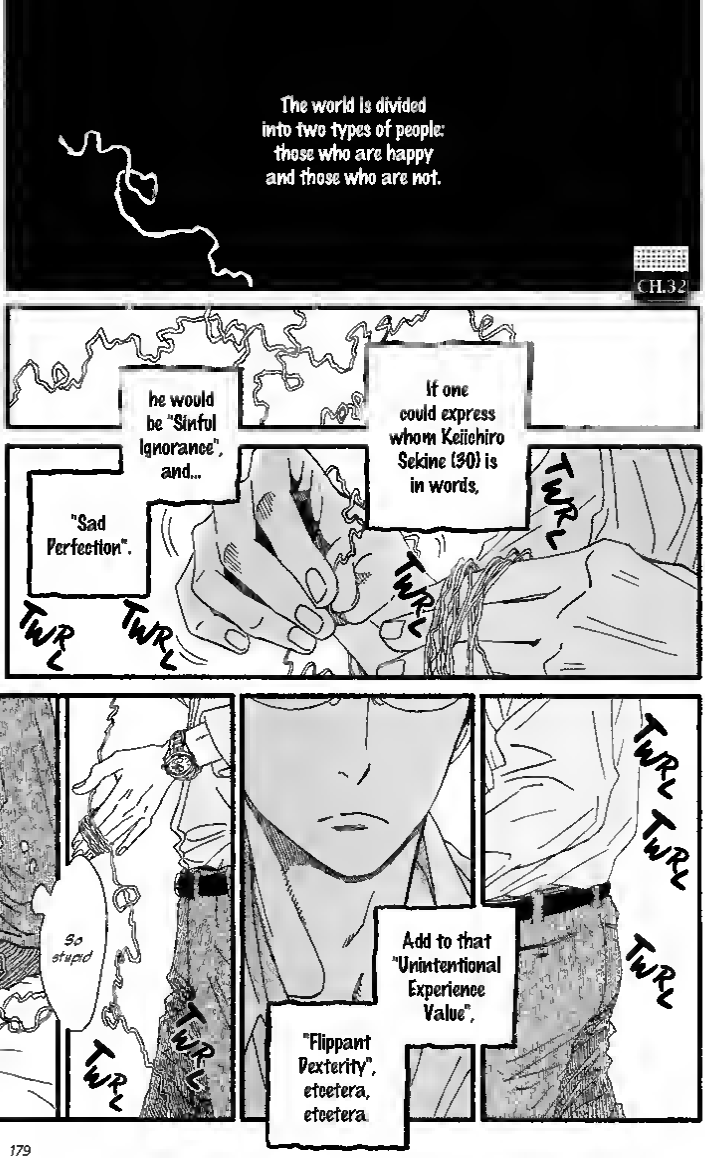
SEKINE'S LOVE

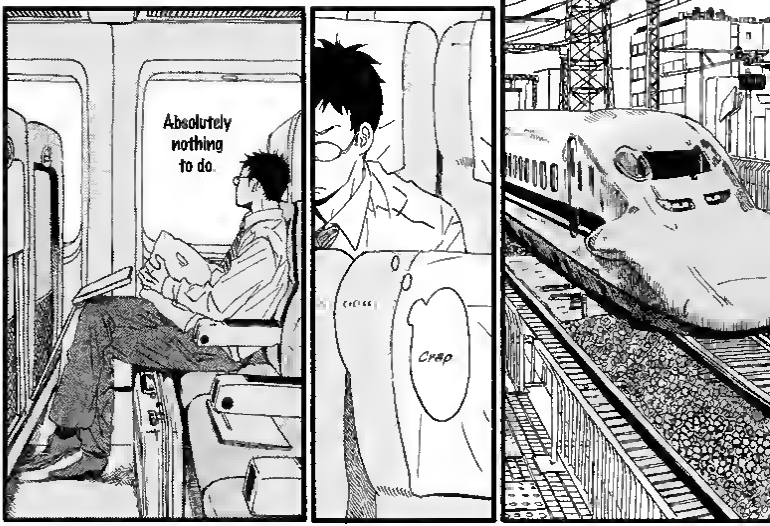
VOLUME 5, CH.32

TRANSLATOR: HATS
PR: OCTOPUSH
CLEANS: XIMENA
TYPESETS: SKIPPYSKIPPY
QUALITY CONTROL: HATS


The world is divided into two types of people: those who are happy and those who are not.
CH.32
If one could express whom Keiichiro Sekine (30) is in words,
he would be "Sinful Ignorance", and...
"Sad Perfection".
TWRL
TWRL
TWRL
TWRL
TWRL TWRL
TWRL
Add to that "Unintentional Experience Value",
"Flippant Dexterity", etcetera, etcetera.
So stupid

On yet another evening, this singularly unfortunate man is...
...knitting useless stuff he has no idea what to do with.
TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL
Whether I switch to a smaller-sized knitting needle or fine yarn,
I still get it done fast.
CH.32
SEKINE-KUN'S LOVE

First of all...
I didn't come on a business trip just so I could supply myself with new yarn
What to do with them all...
I mean, I'll be leaving tomorrow
This city has all kinds of boutiques and shops
I get a feeling that
the grand-daughter would really like it here...
Hph...
WHUP!
KRMPL


Absolutely nothing to do.
Crap

Kansai Ekiben Fest

I have a bad feeling about this.

...until I reach Shinagawa, and I won't feel so terrible.
With this, I can make plenty of progress...
Knit a pineapple lace pattern, for instance...
The height of foolishness

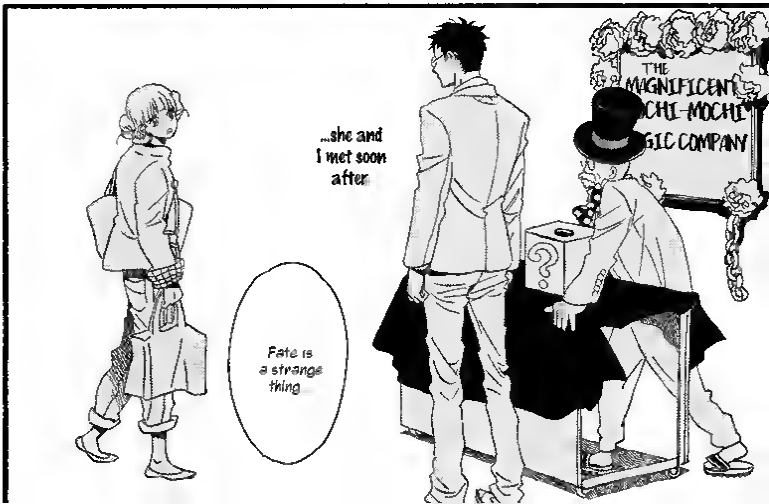
I'll treat you another day
Let my wife and I pick the place - sushi or Chinese food - and we have a deal!
CLICK
Sorry
Don't mention it!
DING DONG
As her adopted uncle, I can't let you get away with that!
At least try to remember a family member's name!
Don't name it without my permission and stop pretending like you're family!
Creepy!
A full-course meal for a 4-day stay is expensive
Do you know how many meals I had to feed Kazu-chan?
Kazu-chan?
I'm not the one who let it out of its cage and handfed it
Hey, don't look at me
I saw that method used in an actual book, okay?
Still, thinking of you living with and keeping anything for years makes me tear up

Come to think of it..
KI SA RA GI

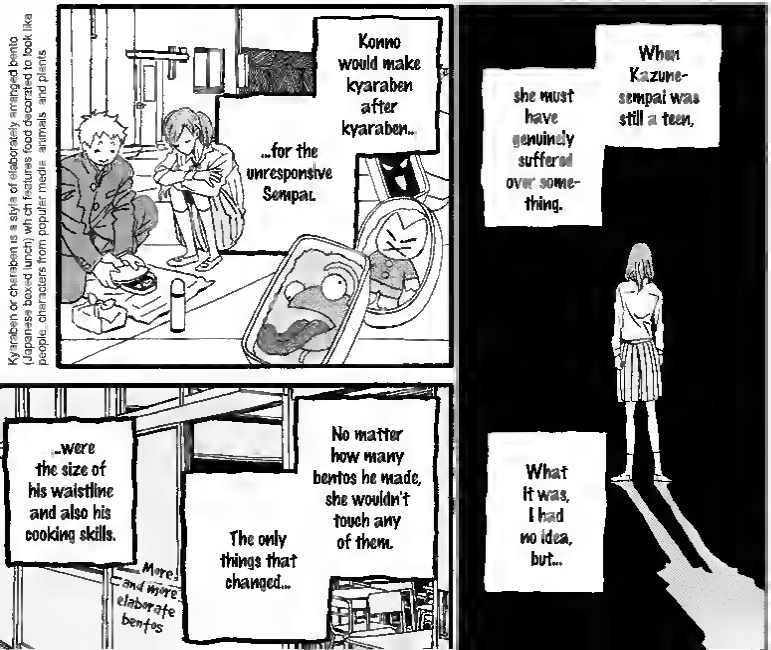
I'll even throw in a toy frog!
HAT TRICK MATERIALS FOR RENT
BONUS
Dirt cheap!
Now only 30,000 yen!

...stepped foot in the shop...
When I first...

I was
...renting some doves for temporary use...
and it came with the exchange
That's all


THE MAGNIFICENT CHI-MOCHI MAGIC COMPANY
...she and I met soon after
Fate is a strange thing

A day will come when you'll want to start seeing things...
...as one miracle on top of another
Wanting to discuss the topic of middle age...
It'll hit home...
...as you get older
Yeah?
Well, don't let it wear you out
Heartfelt
Let me guess, somehow you're going to connect this conversation to your own love story, am I right?
Haha!
Busted!
Don't you ever get bored of it?


Kyaraben or charaben is a style of elaborately arranged bento (Japanese boxed lunch) which features food decorated to look like people, characters from popular media - animals and plants
Konno would make kyaraben after kyaraben...
...for the unresponsive Sempai.
When Kazune-sempai was still a teen,
she must have genuinely suffered over something.
What it was, I had no idea, but...
No matter how many bentos he made, she wouldn't touch any of them.
The only things that changed...
More and more elaborate bentos
...were the size of his waistline and also his cooking skills.

Sempai chuckled and took a bite.
How idiotic were the contents in that box?
I had no way of knowing.
Then one day, it happened.
.. and she bursts out laughing, I win!
If I open the lid ..
Hm
Boring..
As usual!
Shut up
Hm?
Are you
went through the entire tale of how their love began
Isn't that a nice story?
Sorry, I wasn't listening
Anyway, where's my souvenir?
So that's why you haven't left yet
BA-WHUP
One thing did become clear, though.
My teenage self was definitely..
..no match for the young Konno.

Are you done here?
Go home
STOMP STOMP STOMP
What have you been doing on your business trip?
really a businessman?
WHAP
Sushi, Chinese, or Moroccan, right?
Moroccan?
I'll make the reservations, but you still need to email me to confirm the date. Bye!
SLAM
Click Click
Aww!

You're hiding things from me? How cold!
RSTL...
RSTL
RSTL...
GIRL
How did you get inside?!
H-
I forgot to return the keys earlier

You don't have to be so nervous about it
...
Hahaha! So many sweaters!
That's a whole lot of sweaters you have there...
It's nothing...
What're they for?
Seasonal clothing?
If it's nothing, you wouldn't have that scary look on your face
Never should have left him the keys for this dumb bird!

Just let it go
I don't know what grievances you have, but...
What do you plan on doing about this?
Plan?
What do you want with all these sweaters?
Scary look?
...
Yeah
Like you have bad intentions and may have already silenced several people? Hahaha!
...out of my hands, and...
anywhere else but here.
Uh-huh
If I could,
I'd get them...
...
...

Oh.
Oh-oh! If they're giving you that much trouble, then why not donate them?
That's exactly why I'm in this dilemma.
ZAP
Well, it does seem somewhat cumbersome,
and I can see how it might become a nuisance.
A nuisance?!
... you can even give to the old folk's home in the neighborhood.
'Cause aren't most of these brand-new?
There's the bazaar at Kazune's workplace, or...
Yeah.
Donate?
Why not let them use these as samples?
At the old folk's home, they have an Arts & Crafts workshop.
That's such a waste!
They've never been worn before.
But, yeah.
Not brand, brand-new

I see
Hm, well, as long as the materials are new, I'm sure they won't mind having extras in stock
Oh, since it's an Arts & Crafts workshop...
Will they accept
donations of yarn?
Yarn?
Konno, you have the car today, right?
Oh
Sure
Call them up, and I'll bring 'em over to my house
"Like...an extension of myself..."
"Hand-knit stuff..."
VROOM

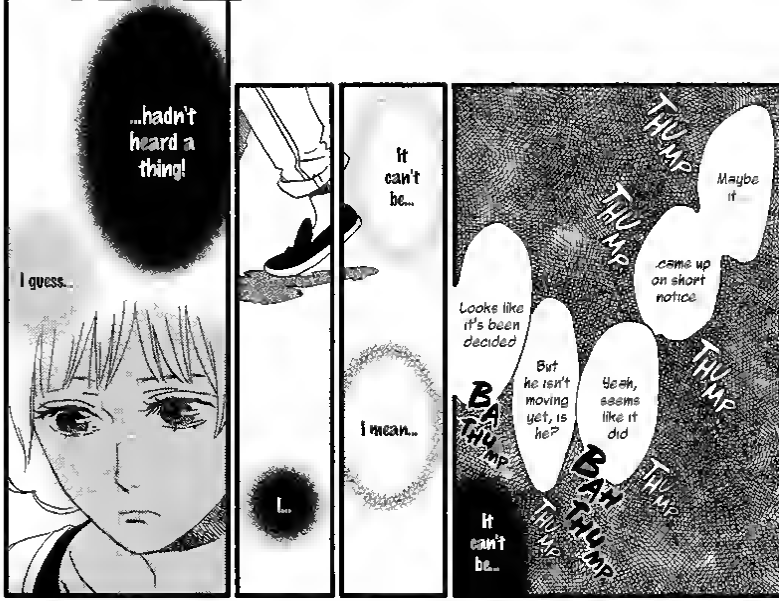
"So is this a Sekine-san original?"
...thought you held onto it like it was so precious because it was a substitute for that friend whenever you didn't get to see him."
"I...
"The stuffed animal...
your friend crocheted for you that you're always carrying around..."
"I always...

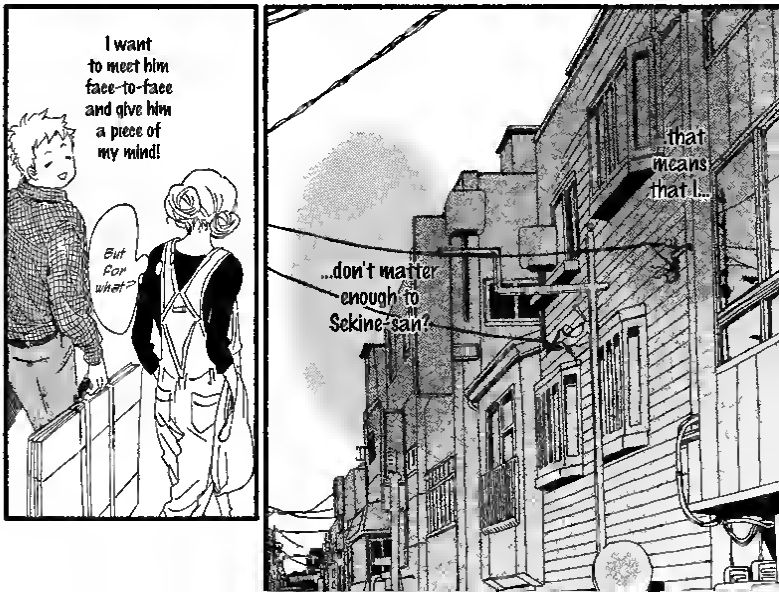
Been a while! Ever since Christmas?
Oh...
Konno-san?!

Handi-crafts Girl!

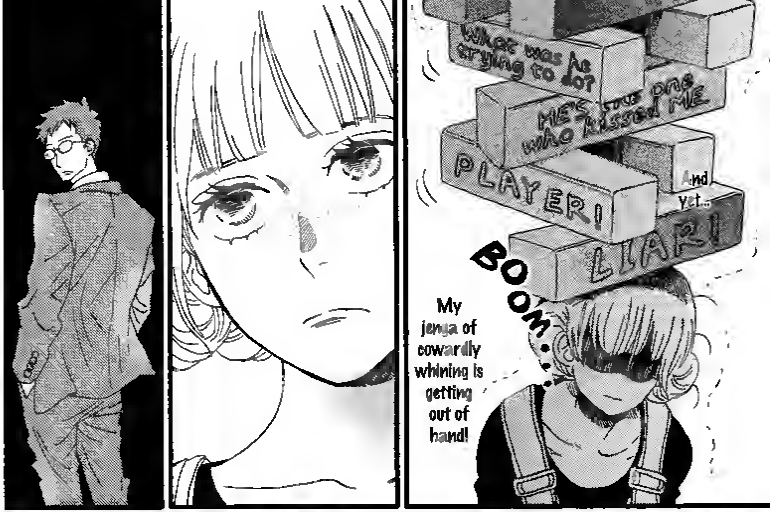
...love it so much, I'm shaking."
Can't believe I said that to his face.

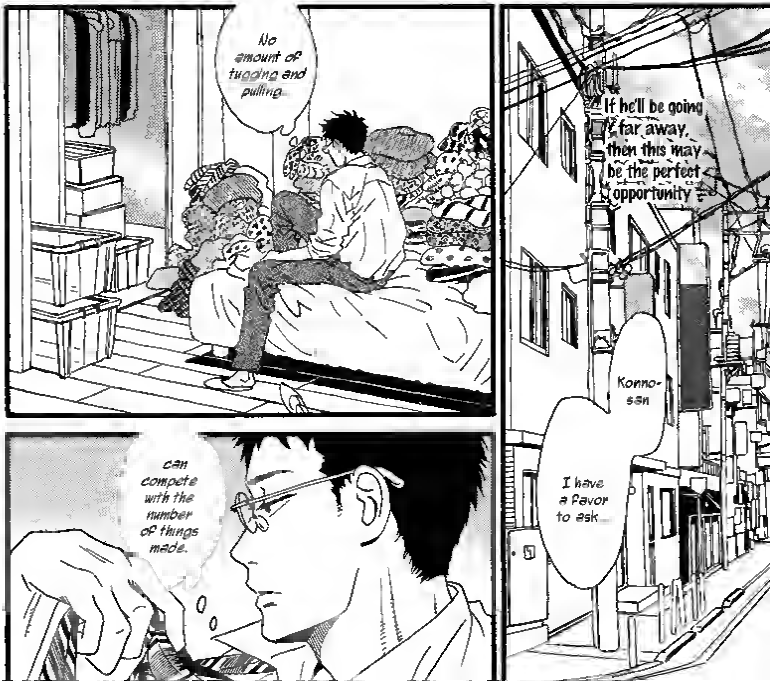
He just got back again from Kyoto
Kyoto?
BA-DUMP
Oh
Didn't expect to find you here
Hello!
Oh, well,
I'm running a small errand for Sekine
He didn't tell you?
You said, Kyoto?
His company's corporate office is in Kansai, and I heard he's going to be promoted
Poor guy doesn't have any other friends besides me, so I'm giving him a hand because I'm such a caring friend, you know?
so I'm going to help him pack
He's in a bit of a hurry to box things up,
Pack?
Kyoto?
Yeah, yeah
He didn't tell you anything?
No
He can be cold like that sometimes
BMP...
BMP
BMP
Does that mean
...he'll be transferred there?
BMP...!
Huh?
BMP
BMP
BMP


...hadn't heard a thing!
I guess...
It can't be...
I mean...
I...
THUMP
THUMP
Maybe it...
came up on short notice
THUMP
Looks like it's been decided
But he isn't moving yet, is he?
Yeah, seems like it did
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
It can't be...


I want to meet him face-to-face and give him a piece of my mind!
But for what?
...that means that I...
...don't matter enough to Sekine-san?

HE was the one who kissed ME!
Because...
Gag!
I want to kick him!
...
...
Why didn't he tell me anything?
He should be slapped!
Uh-uh No matter how angry I am, that wouldn't be right
I don't think I can bear it...!
"With you jumping through hoops to win me over..
But I'm the one who refused him.
LIAR!
No, I haven't been okay
the whole time..
Because of you...
Uhh! I hate him so much!
...let me go?
Am I not the one who told him to...


What was he trying to do?
He's the one who kissed me
And yet...
PLAYER!
LIAR!
BOOM...
My jerk of cowardly whining is getting out of hand!


No amount of tugging and pulling...
If he'll be going far away, then this may be the perfect opportunity
Konno-san
I have a favor to ask...
can compete with the number of things made.

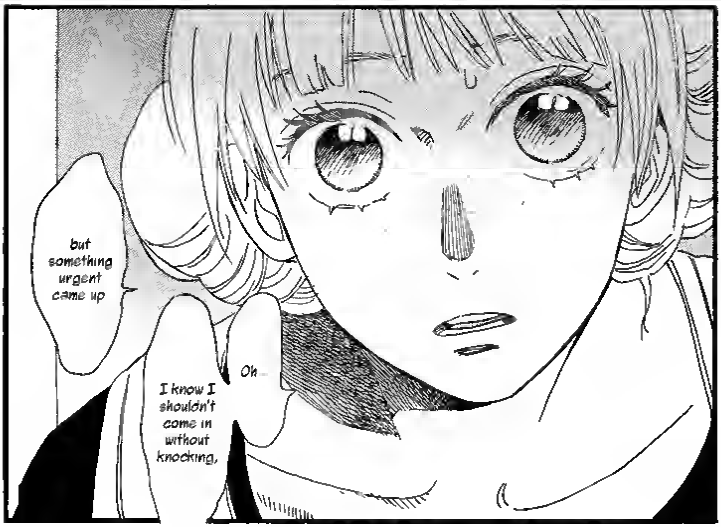
I knit and crochet because I can lose myself in it without having to think about anything.
But the instant I'm done, what I see in front of me reminds me of how extremely unsettling things are.
It reminds me of exactly who I've had on my mind the entire time.

...is called "Estimation".
The trick I'll be showing you today...
You're quite unusual. It's unnerving to think of how much faster you'll learn this than the Average Joe.
Magicians prefer to call it...
But there's no need to train.
...a "magic act" rather than a "card trick".
It's something you can pick up just like that!
I can't seem to find a way to forget her.

Memorize the cards like the back of your hand.
For instance, the thickness of it, and..
how it feels when you snap or cut the cards
The first step is counting the correct number of cards in your left and right hand.
Once you get a good overall view of the cards .
..you'll know its exact location when it's returned to your hands
No matter how many times it's hidden or shuffled..
Swish!
Spread out the cards, and there you have it!
Shuffle
Shuffle
Shuffle
Once you've determine your target keep your finger on it
..you'll be able to find it again without resorting to tricks
Magic acts aren't something you can put down on paper
I can only explain the gist of the actual process..
When all of your senses are put into rotation, what you will always get..
..is a clear answer.

Gramps
I may be too late, but
1,000 yen for one sketchy lesson is
a bit much, isn't it?
TURU
TURU
TURU

CLICK CLICK
SLAM
Finally
TWRL
TWRL
TWRL
sigh
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
Oh, well
After I'm done with this nightmarish spool of thread, I'll leave them all to h—
Excuse me!
Will you look at that?!
I'm so tired I'm hearing things
TWRL
TWRL
TWRL
...?
...
Um
Sekina-san?


but something urgent came up
I know I shouldn't come in without knocking,
Oh

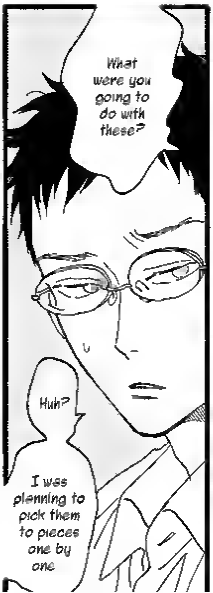
BMP BMP
BMP BMP
Um, I just met up with Konno-san,
and he told me you were moving to Kyoto
And
Grampa left something for you, but...
I held onto it all this time
No, it's more like
!?
...just a pretext
Um...
I didn't come to say that.
Wh—
that's
THMP!
THMP!
THMP!

...isn't
...what it looks like.
THMP!
THMP!
THMP!

What happened to your room?!
This...
How could this have gone unnoticed?!
BMP...

Huh...?
O-Ohhh!

Say what?


What were you going to do with these?
Huh?
I was planning to pick them to pieces one by one.

Oh, there's still some left over here.
Are you just going to pull these apart too?
It's a waste if you do!

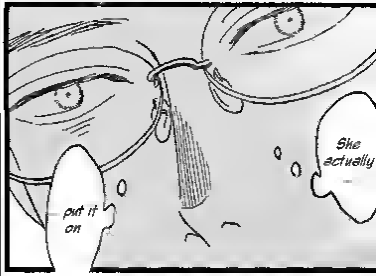
You—
You pulled this apart, didn't you?
Such cute colors too!

If you don't want them, then give them to me!
BMP BMP
You...
...want them...?
Yes.
GRAB
This too, if you'll let me.
If you don't want it,
then give it to me
This messed up thing
Stop talking like that!

It's cashmere, isn't it?
See?
Fits me like a glove!

...

...
This isn't a dream...?


She actually...
put it on

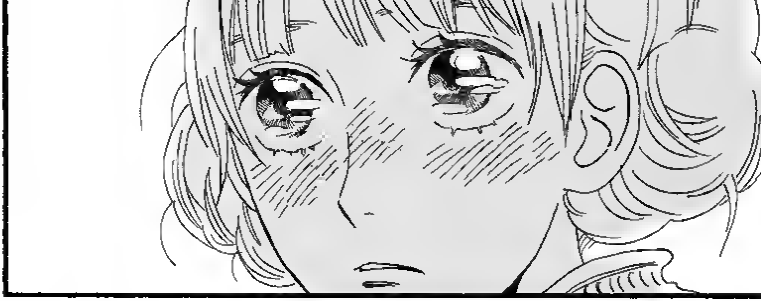
Better than if I were to order it myself
Because.... they're all... for you....
Huh?
Even though I couldn't give them to you
I made them all for you
I custom-ized
your size
them to

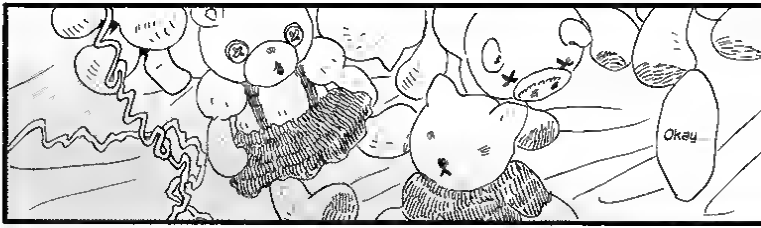
So it turned out like this...
Then I thought, wait, why should a bear only have bears for friends?
So I changed the color and coordinated its outfits
Just slapping on a ribbon didn't feel enough...
But...
I probably meant for it to be female
First, it was this...
Even when knitting accessories for Kotarota
But then, they'd get done right away
I used superfine thread... because they were so tiny
I realize it's too much to give to one person
But in any case,
Yeah, talk about excessive!
tries to explain what...
...he meant when he said they're for me,
the more confusing it gets
I'm okay. Really
The more he...
So slowly but surely,
I turned my hand toward making human-sized things
I've gone and done something downright creepy...
without bothering to ask whether you wanted me to or not

That's...
What is this?
Ha!
By the way--
Um...
What
...the heck is it?
That's what I wanna know!
Uh I'll know if we turn it inside out.
I think
May I look inside?
Help yourself...
It looks creepy and feeling...
and smaller?
And it gets smaller...

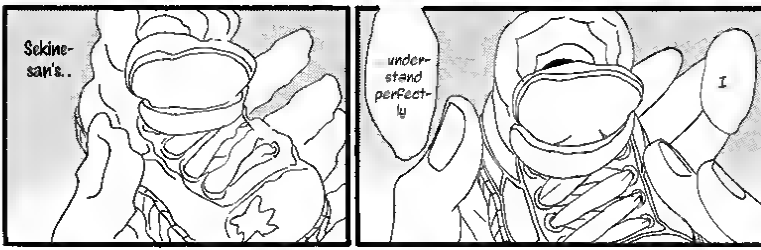
My shoe?
I believe I made a covering for a covering for a covering for a covering of a shoe
Huh...?
My intention was to give it back right away at first
?
?
?
Okay
I'm talking nonsense, aren't I?

I know that...
I shouldn't hold onto what isn't mine...
...For years
But
For whatever reason,
I kept taking it home with me after I saw you...
I did attempt to return it several times, but...
...here it is, still with me in the end...




Okay

I understand
I


Sekine-san's..
understand perfectly
I

I understand how you feel, okay?
...feelings...

This time around, I must...
...accept him with open arms
THUMP!
I...
I...
I...
BMP BMP!
BMP BMP!
BMP BMP!
BMP BMP!

I...
...think I...
...feel the same way you do.

Huh?
Huh?
bmp bmp!
bmp bmp!
bmp bmp!
bmp
...
BMP BMP!
Huh?
What's happening to me right now?
The only thing I can comprehend is
...
Uh
Now what? I'm drawing a blank.
BMP
BMP BMP
BMP BMP BMP
BMP

the weight pressing against my back
If I just happened to start dreaming...
...at the part where the grand-daughter walked into my room, then it all makes sense.
What if I turn around
THUMP!
THUMP!
and this is what I find?
Boko Poo?
Poko Poo?
Transformed
Yes?
Uh
Well
This is her, in the flesh, right?!
...

Did you just say
...that you feel the same way too?
Yes
Is that the truth?
Yes.
I'm beginning to understand that you're serious
Do you?
?
You do, don't you?
Yes
So we're clear on that

Huh?
...

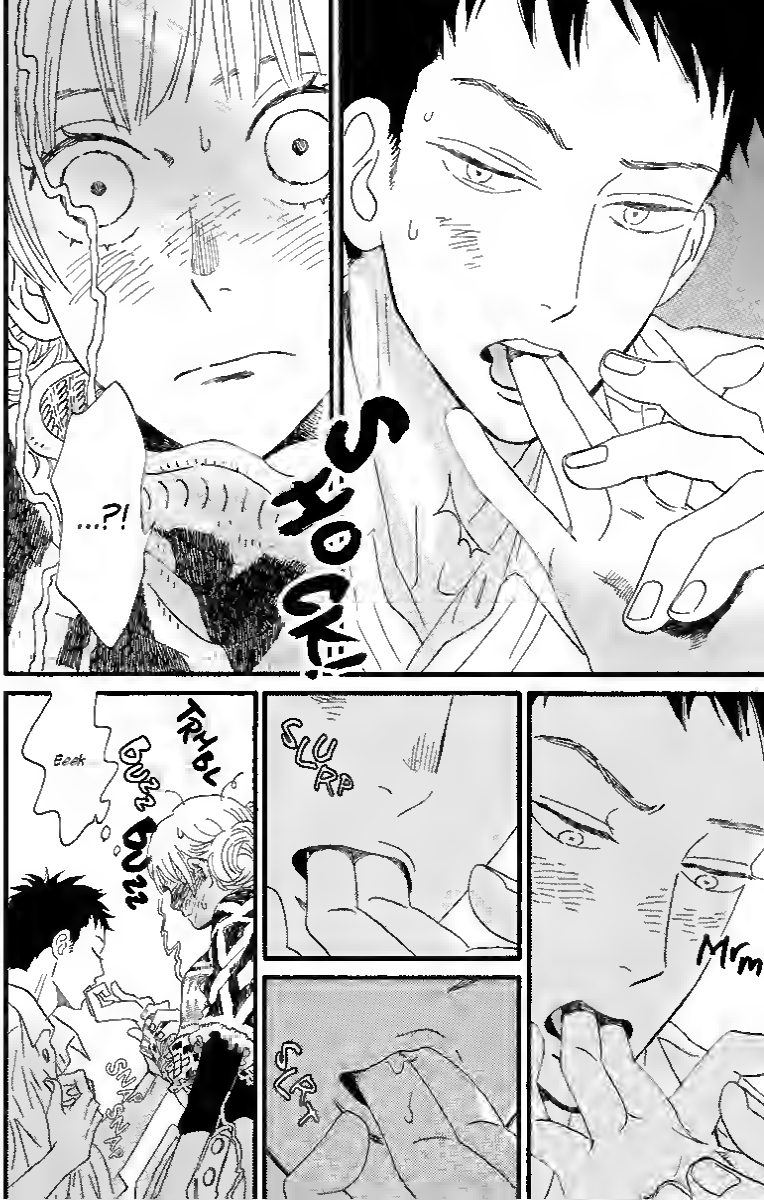
Ит!
И—
...
Что?
SLip...

Then
take it off?
...
It's all
while I still have this sweater on,
If we roll around
it'll keep on unraveling
The hem is frayed.
I'll just knit it for you again right away
me
the same to
I'm embarrassed!
Don't make me say it!
Oh, that's what you meant?
Don't pull on the thread!
Stop what?
Why?
It's okay Just stop!
This will save us time

Even if I trust that our feelings are the same,
it's not as easy as it looks, is it?
Huh ?!
I don't know
Why are you pulling on it?!
...
there was one thing that I decided on
Quite early on,
...a bit off topic, but
This may be...

I told myself that the next time you found love,
I would do everything in my power to help you.
For whatever reason, I thought that way
Maybe...
before I even realized I liked you,
I just wanted to make you happy in any way, shape, or form
Ugh...
There you go again

...with those brows!
Watch it....


SHOCK!!
...?!
Mrm
SLURP
CLICK
TRYING
BUZZ BUZZ
Beek
SWING

GRAB
Can ...
...I bear this?
SLRT...

Sorry.
I don't...
...think I can wait.
All I see is a straight face...
SLEP
Huh?
What frightens me the most is...
Slurp
He took off my bra like a magician performing magic!
TOSS
I knew.
SHOOOCK
how completely eager I am

Did I..
...choose all of these colors..
..for her?
...the bright colors.
...she'd look so much better among...
Mmph.

You said you'd
Yes
...do everything to help me, right?
All right
Without further ado...
I need your helping hand
PAT
PAT
Uh... That's nice too,
but
it's for something else
Oh

You're a good driver, Douyma-kun,
so I'm sure this baby will be jumping for joy at having you behind the wheel.
No problem. I prefer having someone taking her for a spin
That makes me feel better.
Sorry to keep coming to you
Going far today?
Nah, it's really just some minor business
I have to drop a friend off at my old neighborhood
She kept on begging me, so I didn't have a choice!
Letting a lady-killer like you use this car is like adding fuel to a fire! Sheesh!
I can't make you pick me up and drop me off by car!
I can go home alone on the train!
Alone, my ass. You'll be with that hillbilly!
I have something to do at my parents'
Really?
Yeah!
It just so happens!

I'm sorry that I had to tag along
Don't mention it
Man, he's forever a peasant!
What does she see in him anyway?
Where the hell does she find these hillbillies?
Kozue will never change! It's the same, sach and every time!
From Penguin Village? or was it Hillbilly Village?
So? I run the marathon every year!
I did manage to lose 2 kilos
Cool
running around the city though
Pok Pok
Any response from your job-hunting?
The bottom of my shoes came off twice,
but I couldn't use my Suica card to have them mended
..who doesn't know his left from his right, all i can see is a hard life ahead for her!
You sent me that text
Oh, yeah.
Damn it! If she ends up with this guy...
When my suit stank of sweat, I took it to the cleaners,
but when I went to buy myself a dress shirt, I couldn't charge my card again!

I've decided not to
Huh?
I feel like I may feel guilty after giving people hand-knitted stuff
make anyone gifts for a while
Oh, god! I can't, I can't
Said you started knitting
What have you made?
Are you going to make something for me soon?
SA
Heh!
ZAAAP!
...
This is for everything you've done for me.
Whoa.
I told Sara-san before you...
Hey, didn't I just get one yesterday?!
BIP BIP BIP
So in other words, at this point in time, I'm the only person in the whole world who...
...got something handmade by Kozue.
How... How does it look?
...
...
...

You can have the car all week! Why? Because the Handicraft Store Girl hasn't come back from Sekine's house yet ☆
Hmm
...
Handicrafts Store Girl hasn't come back from Sekine's house y
Don't have any details on it, but...
Is Sara-chan finally feeling up for a solo visit to Sekine-san's?
Moving fast!
Whew!
Mhmm?!
Not that I care to find out.
Yet the more I observe, the less I understand.
Sekine-san, huh?
He's a unique creature, for sure
As for me
What's with him?
He's a pretty weird guy.
I'll never get tired of watching him.

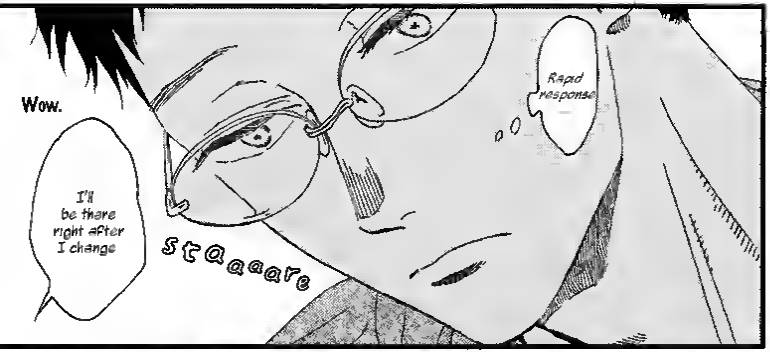
I won't get in his way or try to steal her, but...
I will curse him for eternity
Gold buttons are so cool!
I'll give them to you when I graduate.
I only want yours now, when they're new.
Doesn't matter how many guys you end up dating.
I'm sticking around until I die.
I can't forgive you for not noticing...
...how much I did for you since your first year in middle school.
I'll keep on waiting and...
...acting like I don't care.

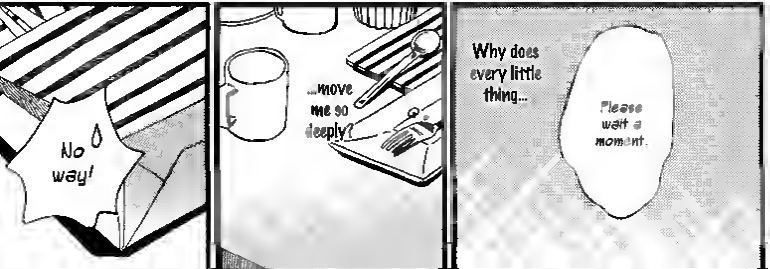
CLUNK
WASH
WASH

CREAK
tun tun
tun tun
TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL
Zzz...
TWIRL
TWIRL
...

Kisaragi
Sara?
I...made some food.
Ki-
Kisaragi Sara...
Aren't you hungry?

Okaaay...
Sara
Hey, Kisaragi
Think you can get up?


Wow.
I'll be there right after I change
staaaare
Rapid response

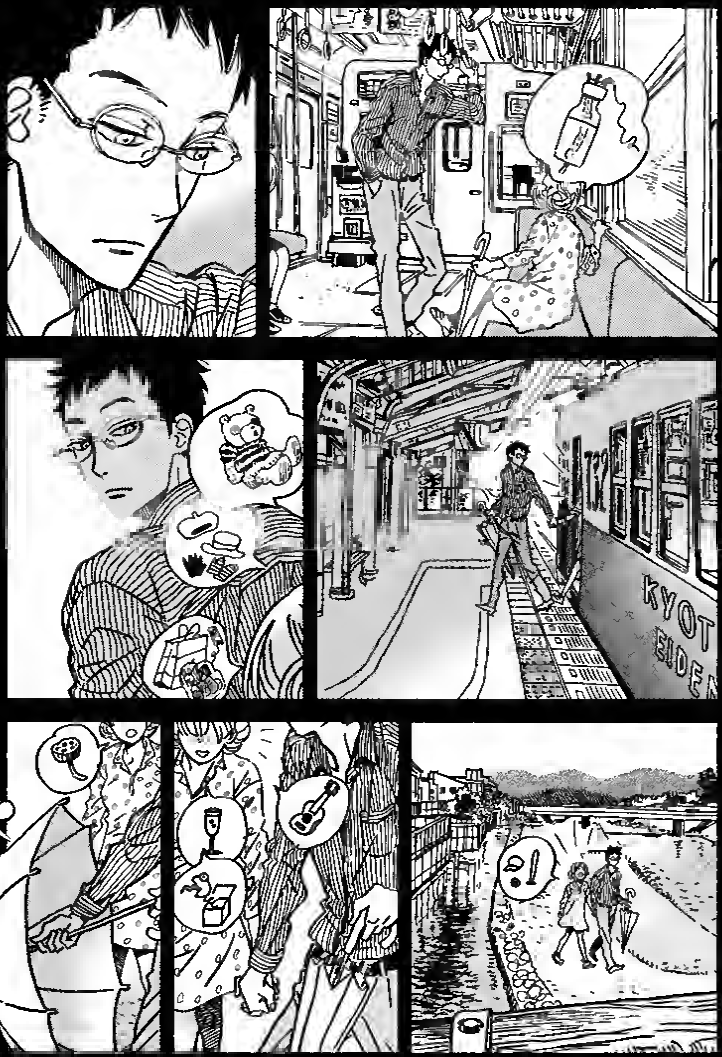

No way!
...move me so deeply?
Why does every little thing...
Please wait a moment.

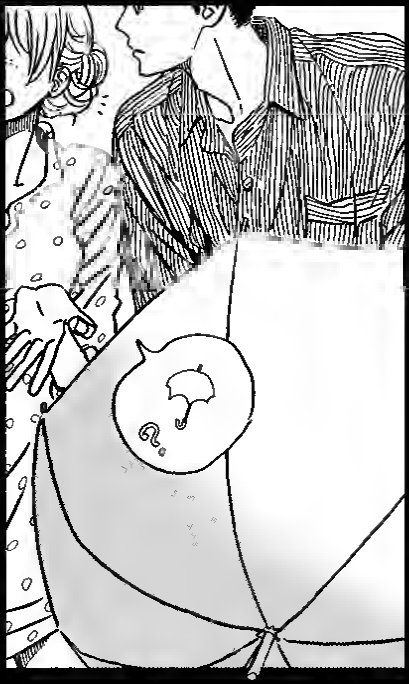
Hold on
I'm afraid to even ask, but...
It's a pay in advance system
If the receipt is inside, that means...
He's horrible!
The contents are a complete joke!
The Magnificent Mochi-Mochi MAGIC CO.
Scientific Magic Trick Set
Grampa used me as a carrier for this?
And isn't it way overpriced?!
¥ 5,000
Hey!
Here I am, worried about you...
Heh
EEEK!
You paid him?!
Bullfeet!
...and all you do is laugh?!

END

新幹線のりばくハ条口
Shinkansen Tracks (Hachijo)
Tokyo
Kyoto
COFFEE
コーヒ本店

VS


KYOT



Thanks

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(Finishing touches,
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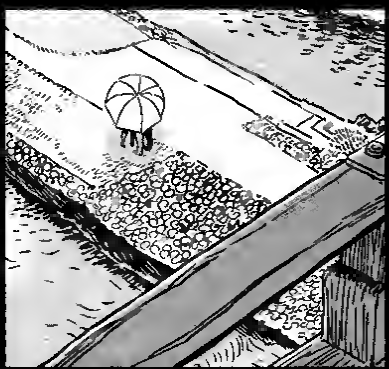
Kuro-chan
(Dancing, boiled eggs)
Salesman,
all of you at the print shop,
all of you at the bookshops,

and lastly,
all of you dear readers.



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